



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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SIMMONS SPONSORS RESOLUTION SAYING: "CONGRESS IS NOT ABOVE THE LAW"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today joined a handful of House Republicans in support of a congressional resolution stating that no member of Congress should be outside the jurisdiction of law enforcement. A copy of the resolution is attached.

"Unethical actions by members of Congress are a true threat to our democracy because they seriously undermine the public trust in our elected leaders," Simmons said. "That's why I am proud to join 17 of my colleagues in support of a congressional resolution that clearly states that Members of Congress are not above the law and that they should be held accountable for their actions. While my opinion on this issue may put me at odds with the Republican and Democrat leadership in the House, the vast majority of the American people believe that no member of Congress is above the law."

On May 20, the FBI searched the offices of Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA) in a corruption investigation. Congress leaders objected, and President Bush put a 45-day hold on the seized documents to allow for negotiations. Simmons is among a small band of members of Congress who have spoken out in support of law enforcement.

The resolution, authored by Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL), seeks to send a strong statement to constituents: If any member of Congress breaks the law, they must face the consequences. A recent ABC News poll found that a large majority of Americans agree.

According to the poll, 86 percent of those surveyed say the FBI should be allowed to search a Congress member's office if it has a warrant – 78 percent of Democrats and 94 percent of Republicans.

Joining Simmons and Brown-Waite as a sponsor of the resolution are Reps. Charles Bass (NH-02), Charles Dent (PA-15), Mike Fitzpatrick (PA-08), Katherine Harris (FL-13), J.D. Hayworth (AZ-05), Joel Hefley (CO-05), Ric Keller (FL-08), Sue Kelly (NY-19), Jim Leach (IA-02), John Mica (FL-07), Candice Miller (MI-10), Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04), Sue Myrick (NC-09), Jon Porter (NV-03), Chris Shays (CT-04), and Joe Wilson (SC-02).

Simmons concluded, "Members of Congress are no different from everyone else and, as such, should have no special treatment. Any federally elected official who is suspected of illegally abusing his or her office should be prepared to undergo a rigorous investigation. They should not hide behind the Constitutional protections of their office. We need to catch Congressional crooks."

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